



**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

FILED
9-14-16
01:30 PM

Application of Pacific Gas and Electric
Company for Approval of the Retirement of
Diablo Canyon Power Plant, Implementation
of the Joint Proposal, And Recovery of
Associated Costs Through Proposed
Ratemaking Mechanisms

Application 16-08-006
(Filed August 11, 2016)

PROTEST OF WOMEN'S ENERGY MATTERS

September 14, 2016

Jean Merrigan
P.O. Box 2615
Martinez, CA 94553
(925) 957-6070
jnmwem@gmail.com

Advocate for Women's Energy Matters

PROTEST OF WOMEN'S ENERGY MATTERS

Pursuant to Rule 2.6 of the Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure, Women's Energy Matters (WEM) submits this Protest to the Application of Pacific Gas and Electric Company. Citing significant and accelerating changes in the California energy landscape, including the growing need for flexible energy sources, PGE by its Application, proposes to retire the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant at the end of its current license periods (2024/2025). The utility has entered into an agreement with select stakeholders¹ to suspend its license renewal efforts and gradually replace Diablo's output with a combination of energy efficiency and greenhouse gas-free energy resource procurement. The Application requests CPUC approval of employee and local community benefit programs to ease transition. PGE's Application requests that the Commission approve a cost recovery plan for Diablo which will pay off the plant by 2024/2025, and also requests pre-approval of cost allocation methods for the GHG-free energy procurement and EE programs. PGE's cost allocation strategies include a Clean Energy Charge to be passed onto customers in PGE's service area.

With minor exceptions, parties to the Joint Proposal agree to support PGE's Application, but they also agree to abide by Rule 12 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, should the terms need to be revised. The Joint Proposal is in effect a settlement that has been negotiated in advance with select parties. WEM appreciates the various stakeholders' accomplishment in getting the utility to suspend its license renewal efforts and make a formal commitment to replace Diablo with a certain amount of energy efficiency and renewables. We appreciate the intent to ease community and employee transition and retain skilled employees. Nevertheless, there are many contentious issues involved and complex details to be reviewed, clarified and modified as necessary. The Commission will benefit from the participation of parties who have not joined onto the Proposal.

¹ Non-utility parties to the Joint Proposal are: Friends of the Earth, Natural Resources Defense Council, Environment California, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1245, Coalition of California Utility Employees, and Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility.

I. PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF WEM'S INTENDED PARTICIPATION

WEM has been a party in Commission proceedings since 2001, working in proceedings related to energy efficiency, long term procurement, community choice aggregation, and nuclear power plant cost recovery. WEM intends to thoroughly review the Application, the Joint Proposal and Testimony to determine the Application's overall reasonableness and will offer feedback, critiques and suggestions for improvements as appropriate. Issues WEM intends to address through its participation include:

- timing of plant retirement including the negative costs and environmental impacts of keeping the plant running another eight to nine years;

- timing of Tranche 1, 2 & 3 commitments to Energy Efficiency, GHG-free energy, and renewables (why not expedite the necessary transition to more flexible, less hazardous, less toxic energy sources?);

- clarification of the "all source GHG-free energy" resources that will replace Diablo's output (i.e., by the terms of the Joint Proposal would PG&E be allowed to continue to use nuclear energy resources to replace Diablo?);

- the cost-effectiveness of allowing Unit 2 to continue operating once Unit 1 has already shut down;

- reasonableness of PGE's cost recovery proposals;

- reasonableness of proposed cost-allocation mechanism(s);

- detailed examination of PGE claims re: amount of power needed to replace Diablo;

- detailed examination of resource adequacy issues.

WEM intends to participate in this proceeding by conducting discovery, participating in workshops, preparing testimony, attending evidentiary hearings, and filing briefs. WEM will collaborate with other parties to avoid duplication and seek creative solutions to disputed issues.

II. SCHEDULING

PGE proposed the following schedule for the major events in this proceeding:

Pre-Hearing Conference: September 19, 2016

Intervenor Testimony: October 28, 2016

Rebuttal Testimony: November 30, 2016

Evidentiary Hearings: Dec 13-16, 2016

Opening Briefs: January 16, 2017

Reply Briefs: February 3, 2017

Proposed Decision Issued: May 2017

WEM believes this schedule is aggressive. WEM has begun reviewing the Application and will initiate discovery shortly, but we suggest a schedule that will allow additional time and include public workshops to allow for public discussion of alternatives and revisions to the Joint Proposal outside of the evidentiary hearings. WEM will work with other parties to reach an alternative schedule, but tentatively suggests the following:

Pre-Hearing Conference: October 26, 2016

Intervenor Testimony: December 5, 2016

Rebuttal Testimony: January 4, 2016

Public Workshop: January 13, 2017

Evidentiary Hearings: January 17-20, 2017

Opening Briefs: February 16, 2017

Reply Briefs: March 2, 2017

Proposed Decision Issued: July 2017

Dated: September 14, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jean Merrigan

Jean Merrigan, Advocate
Women's Energy Matters
P.O. Box 2615
Martinez, CA 94553
(925) 957-6070
jnmwem@gmail.com